REMARKS

Claims 11, 14-17 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Guiver (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,490) in view of Marko (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,628). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Guiver does "not mention explicitly the steps of: assessing each class with respect to a predefined second threshold value, if a result of said assessing step lies below the second predefined threshold value, then, screening out said class," but that "Marko et al. disclose a technique of cluster-based classifier, and teach the step and means of assessing each class with respect to a predefined second threshold value, if a result of said assessing step lies below the second predefined threshold value, then, screening out said class (col. 11, lines 53-68 and col. 12, lines 1-61). A detailed discussion of the Guiver reference may be found in the amendment filed February 6, 2003.

Marko discloses a system and method for processing test measurements collected from an internal combustion engine that is cold-tested for diagnostic purposes. However, Mark fails to disclose assessing each class with respect to a predefined second threshold value, if a result of said assessing step lies below the second predefined threshold value, then, screening out said class, as suggested by the Examiner. Rather, Marko discloses a cluster-based classifier in which Principle Component Values (PCs) corresponding to measurements processed by a principle component analysis are divided into groups (i.e. classes) (see, for example, col. 11, lines 53-60). Although Marko discloses an assessing step of classes, it does not disclose that the result of the assessing step is used in order to determine whether a class of measurement values is to be screened out, as required by the claimed invention. Nor does Marko perform the assessing step in order to reduce the number of measured variables, but is directed to the assessment of a technical system as a whole, i.e. whether an engine is normal or faulty.

Hence, the recited structure and method are not disclosed by the applied prior art, either alone or in combination. As such, claims 11 and 20 are patentable. Claims 14-17, depending from claim 11, are similarly patentable.
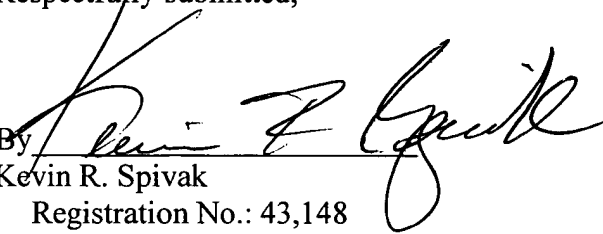
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Claims 12-13 and 18-19 have been allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 449122016900.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Kevin R. Spivak
   Registration No.: 43,148
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Phone (703) 760-7762
Facsimile (703) 760-7777
Attorneys for Applicant

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